

Lesson Planning and Pacing Guide

Mini-Units/Lesson #

Suggested Time

Civic Life

1. Interconnections between Private & Civic Life

15-30 minutes

Defining Community

2. The Meaning of Community
3. Picture This: The Demographics of Fairfax County
4. Community Awareness: A Place Called Fairfax
5. A Brief History of Fairfax County

0-45 minutes
60-90 minutes
5-60 minutes
5-60 minutes

Local Government

6. The Structure of Virginia Local Government
7. Organization of Fairfax County Government

Two 45-min periods
90 minutes

Public Services

8. A Directory of Fairfax County Service Providers

90 minutes*

The Local Legislative Process

9. Exploring County Ordinances
10. Board of Supervisors Meeting
11. Influencing the Agenda: The Impact of Interest Groups on Policy Making
12. Issues Close to Home

45 minutes
90+ minutes*
90+ minutes*
30 minutes + homework

Paying for Local Government

13. The Fairfax County Budget:
A Look at Spending

180 minutes

Enrichment and Extension Activities

14. Analyzing Public Policy Options
15. Community Service Learning Project

culminating project
ongoing project

Fairfax County Program of Studies: "Closest To The People"

Unit Planning: This unit may be taught in its entirety as a stand alone unit on local government or may be used throughout the year during different units in the eighth grade POS as recommended below.

Notes/Suggestions for integrating "Closest to the People" into existing units of study:

Content:

Rights/Responsibilities: Lesson 1

Founding Documents: Lesson 5

Structure/Functions/Power of Local Government: Lessons 6,7, 9, 10, and 11

Economics/Budgeting: Lesson 13

SOL Review Opportunities: Lessons 5 and 6

Skills/Processes:

Mapping: Lesson 4

Budgeting: Lesson 13

Decision-Making: Lessons 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11

Cooperative Group Activities: Lessons 6, 7, and 12

Acquiring/Organizing/Analyzing/Interpreting Information: all of the above

Recommended lessons for different length units:

Three-Days: Local Government

Five-Days: Local Government and Public Services

Ten + Days: Defining Community, Local Government, Local Legislative Process, and Public Services